

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081491  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY:AF/C:GHAMILTON  
APPROVED BY:AF/C:TRBUCHANAN  
-----121831Z 040560 /40  
O 121647Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081491

STADIS/////////////////////////////////  
FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 3360 SENT ACTION SECSTATE BRUSSELS  
PARIS APRIL 11.  
QUOTE  
C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3360

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EGEN EAID PFOR  
SUBJECT: ADVISABILITY OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID

REF: (A) KINSHASA 3168 (B) STATE 79937

1. WE AGREE THAT THE PLIGHT OF THE "CITE" DWELLER HAS  
CONSIDERABLY WORSENERED DURING THE PAST YEAR BUT, AS POINTED OUT  
IN REF (A), THIS IS CAUSED BY FACT THAT PRICES HAVE RISEN SINCE  
APRIL 1976 BETWEEN 55 AND 68 PER CENT, DEPENDING UPON THE INCOME  
GROUP, WHILE WAGE INCREASES HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY RESTRICTED  
TO 20 PER CENT. AS POINTED OUT IN REF (A), THE AVERAGE  
ZAIRIAN HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE BY SHIFTING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS  
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FROM EXTENSIVE PROTEIN TO LESS EXPENSIVE CEREALS AND VEGETABLES.  
USG-FINANCED IMPORTS OF WHEAT, RICE, TOBACCO AND COTTON HAVE  
HAD AN IMPORTANT MODERATING EFFECT UPON SOME PRICES. WE HAVE  
CLOSELY MONITORED AVAILABILITY OF STAPLES TO THE "CITE" DWELLER  
AND THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGES. THE PROBLEM IS NOT  
AVAILABILITY BUT THE DECLINE OF THE REAL INCOME OF THE AVERAGE  
ZAIRIAN. BANK OF ZAIRE FIGURES JUST RELEASED REFLECT THAT REAL

GDP DECLINED BY 6.1 PER CENT IN 1975 AND 1.0 PER CENT IN 1976. ASSUMING A 2.8 PER CENT GROWTH RATE, THIS WOULD MEAN A PER CAPITA DECLINE OF 8.9 PER CENT IN 1975 AND 3.8 PER CENT IN 1976. THESE STATISTICS, TOGETHER WITH PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED PRICE DATA, SUPPORT OUR BELIEF THAT THE INCOME GAP BETWEEN ZAIRIAN ELITE AND THE MASSES OF THE POOR HAS CONSIDERABLY WIDENED DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WHILE MEAT IS NOW A LUXURY BEYOND THE REACH OF MOST "CITE" DWELLERS, THE GOZ ELITE STILL ENJOY THEIR LIMOUSINES AND THE STORES ARE STOCKED WITH SUCH LUXURIES AS FRENCH LIQUORS AND CHEESES, PATE WITH TRUFFLES AND SMOKED SALMON. ADDITIONAL EXPENSIVE RESTAURANTS AND CASINOS HAVE OPENED WITHIN THE PAST YEAR AND ARE PATRONIZED BY ZAIRIANS AS WELL AS THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY. CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION BY THE ZAIRIAN ELITE IS WIDESPREAD AND OPEN WHILE MOBUTU SPEAKS OF SACRIFICES AND ANNOUNCES A WAR BUDGET. APPARENTLY THE SACRIFICES ARE TO BE BORNE BY THE POOR AND NOT THE ZAIRIAN ELITE. THE GOZ PREDICTS 30 PER CENT PRICE INCREASE IN 1977 BUT STATES THAT THERE WILL BE NO WAGE INCREASES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR CORPORATIONS. THE ALREADY EXTREME INCOME GAP IS WIDENING AND POLITICALLY VOLATILE.

2. THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO WISH TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT PROF. DOUCY'S POLITICAL MOTIVES, WHICH HE UNVEILED PER LAST PARA OF EC BRUSSELS 3451. DOUCY'S LINE IS THE SAME WE HAVE HEARD MOST RECENTLY FROM THE REFORMIST ELITE GROUP, WHO SEES THAT MOBUTU IS DIGGING IN AND SHOWS NO SIGN OF WITHDRAWING FROM POWER. WHAT THEY SAY--AND WHAT DOUCY IS SAYING--IS THAT MOBUTU BOTH NEEDS TO BE SAVED AND NEEDS A FACE-SAVING GESTURE; EMERGENCY US ASSISTANCE, ALLIED WITH OVERT POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE REGIME, WOULD REASSURE MOBUTU THAT WE ARE NOT OUT TO GET HIM, HELP CONFIDENTIAL

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STABILIZE THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND SAVE HIS PRESTIGE; IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MOBUTU COULD THEN BE CONVINCED--AGAIN BY THE US--TO WITHDRAW FROM POWER IN FAVOR OF A PRIME MINISTER.

3. THE POLITICAL ARGUMENT DOES NOT CONVINCE US, BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE USG WILL NOT ONLY EFFECT POLITICAL REFORM, BUT ALSO WILL STAND BEHIND THE RESULTS. AND IN OUR OPINION, THE REFORM GROUP--SAMBWA, KENGO WA DONDO, NAMWISI, BOMBOKO, MENDAKA--DO NOT, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE, HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL OR THE OVERALL VISION TO PULL IT OFF. THE ECONOMIC/POLITICAL ANALYSIS THAT WE DO ESPOUSE WILL BE SUMMARIZED IN OUR PARM, WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED SHORTLY. THAT DOCUMENT CONCENTRATES ON THE PROTECTION AND COINCIDENCE OF BASIC INTERESTS, BOTH THOSE OF THE ZAIRIAN PEOPLE AND OUR OWN.

4. IN SUM, WE ARGUE FOR A CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO ZAIRE'S UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, TO THE BASIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE ZAIRIAN PEOPLE FOR ECONOMIC REFORM AND PROGRESS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOOD GOVERNMENT. THROUGHOUT, WE ARGUE FOR DISCREETLY

DISTANCING OURSELVES FROM MOBUTU THE MAN, BUT POINT OUT THE  
NEED TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS IN THE SHORT TERM. WE BELIEVE THAT  
A COMBINATION OF PERMITTING THE GOZ TO USE ITS FMS FOR THE  
PURCHASE OF NON-LETHAL SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORTATION THEREOF  
AND THE EARLY SIGNING OF FY 77 PL-480 AND CIP PROGRAMS IS  
SUFFICIENT TO SHOW OUR CONCERN FOR THE DANGERS POSED BY THE  
EVENTS IN SHABA AND TO COVER OUR SHORT-TERM POLITICAL BETS.  
OVER THE MEDIUM AND LONGER TERM, WE CALL FOR CONTINUED COMMITMENT  
TO ECONOMIC REFORM BY TYING OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT TO  
STRENGTHENED IMF STABILIZATION PROGRAMS, FOR BETTER PERFORMANCE  
BY THE GOZ IN JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND FOR MORE DIRECT,  
PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAMS. EMERGENCY FOOD AID IS NOT EXCLUDED,  
BUT WE DO NOT SEE A NEED FOR IT RIGHT NOW.  
CUTLER UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOOD SHORTAGE, PRICE TRENDS, PRICE DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**DecapTION Date:** 22 May 2009  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF/C:GHAMILTON  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:** Hold (001 Tobacco) added on 4/16/2009 3:39:08 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ, Hold (001 Tobacco) removed on 4/16/2009 3:45:06 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ (Litigation Hold Lifted)  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c239bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 77 KINSHASA 3168, 77 STATE 79937  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2830563  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ADVISABILITY OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID  
**TAGS:** EGEN, EAID, PFOR  
**To:** TUNIS  
**Type:** TE  
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